



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
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# The Winter Issue

## The History of Jack Frost

By Luke Kim

Jack Frost, the up-beat bearer of winter, is a character created long ago who is still as relevant as ever, considering the frostbite I got on the 30th when we should've had a snow day. The current Jack Frost is a mix of myths from almost all European cultures, but the majority comes from Norse mythology. In Norse myths he is believed to be Jokul Frosti, birthed by the Norse goddess of the winds Kari. This name translates to frosty icicle making this the favorite theory. Russian cultures see him as Father Frost, a blacksmith who forges the cuffs holding the Earth and its waters together. In Germany, Old Mother Frost was known to make snow fall from a quilt or blanket. Most cultures saw him as mischievous and/or happy, fronted mostly by Anglo-Saxon myths, but a few saw a horribly angry and irritable Jack Frost who would drown you in snow if you angered him. Most current interpretations of Jack Frost portray a side-character of Christmas who



blows frost on windows, but overall, he is a happy go-lucky character who characterizes winter itself. While not trying to become more popular than Santa (such as in *Santa Clause 3*), Jack Frost isn't a fan of him either as over time he has been taken over as the sign of winter by Santa Claus.

Beira, Queen of Winter in Scotland and Ireland, is known for the creation of mountains and hills as stepping stones, the freezing of the ground with her staff, and herding deer. Many Gaelic tribes would collect firewood for her in La Fheill Brighde, but if she wanted a longer winter she would take things into her own hands and create a bright, sunny February 1st to get her own firewood. Imagine walking around with a hammer strong enough to shape mountains, now imagine shaping the British Isles with

it. She is known for rough, uneven, and large mountains called "Hag's Heads" (did I mention they called her a hag). One time she even created a river by mistake because she fell asleep and didn't watch the well she was tending creating Loch Awe.

Winter is a time of cold, stress, darkness, and in the past, death and famine. Many cultures had legends and characters that tried to either cheer people up, explain the cold, or explain the despair. Looking into these characters and myths allow us to look at effects of Winter and be able to think about how they have affected people in the past and justifications for it all.

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# The Frogs



## A Review of the JS Play, *The Frogs*

By Luke Kim

On Saturday January 26th, I was blessed with the hour and a half long play, *The Frogs*. The play, written by author and playwright Don Zolidis, was a comedy based off Dionysus' journey to return entertainment to its peak in the 16th century. With the great production of the junior school and Mr. Berry, the play became the perfect show for the average middle schooler and their parents, with jokes ranging from Mr. Morrison's accent to alcoholism due to the abduction and forced marriage of Persephone.

This play was filled with pros. I loved the show's ability to keep the crowd laughing as it seemed as though every moment was one of enjoyment. The brother-sister duo of Frank and Mary Alice Pierce worked perfectly as the clever and down-to-earth Xanthias created a more reasonable voice while the wild and hilariously foolish Dionysus made a clown of himself with a few of his own humorous remarks. Along with the two protagonists playing off of each other well, the frogs were great. While some question their inclusion in the play, I think they were perfect and

worked well with the premise of the play. Aside from how the characters were written, the acting was great, and you could feel how the characters felt with every sentence. While I didn't expect much out of a middle school play with an all junior school cast, I ended up being amazed with the production and acting, which created an astonishing play.

For cons of the play, there were some parts of the play that I thought were a bit forced. The contempt of the poisonous dart tree frog felt unneeded and just another reference or attempt at a joke, but I found it to be a long tangent not truly centered on the concept that the court scene portrayed. I also think that the poor marriage of Hades and Persephone was a bit overdone towards the end. I found that some of the jokes would make me a bit uncomfortable as they went on too long or were things I wouldn't have touched on.

From the length of the cons section, I liked the play a lot more

than I disliked it. Overall, I would rate the play about a 9/10 on a personal scale. While there were some things I disliked and thought could be gotten rid of, they were quickly forgotten in the great acting and writing of the play. The performance was amazing, and most of the crew felt comfortable in their roles such as Zane as the trainer or Hercules, Coach Klausner as the (only) Denny's patron, and Mrs. Bassett as Jane Austen. I loved the play and wish I could've seen it again, but sadly, I went to the last performance on Saturday. I think this show is a tremendous success for the MBA and Junior School theater program, and I hope we can see such great productions from them again.





# The Frogs



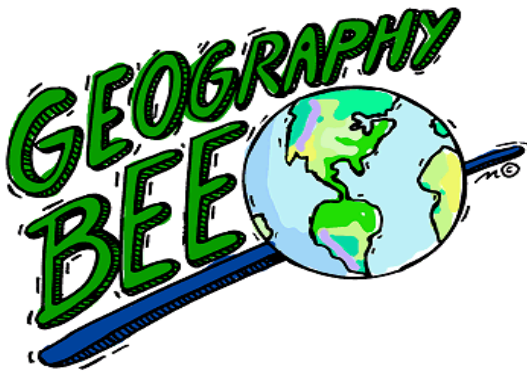
*Photos Courtesy of Rick Malkin*



*The Cast and Crew of Frogs*



# JS Students Excel at the Bees



Over the course of several days during fourth period, Oliver Pilkinton bested fourteen other Junior School students to claim this year's Geography Bee title. Each year, the National Geographic Society sponsors the National Geography Bee, beginning with school-level competitions and culminating with the national bee and a \$50,000 scholarship awarded to the winner. By winning the school-level competition, Oliver will advance to the state bee, held later this spring and featuring one hundred competitors from across Tennessee. Oliver correctly identified Sweden as the host of the 2019 Alpine World Ski Championships to defeat runner-up Luca Recchia in the championship round.



*Mr. Russ and Oliver Pilkinton*



*Whit Uden and Mrs. Bassett*



After a restful and relaxing winter break, the MBA Junior School Spelling Bee took place during break on Thursday, January 11th. Ten Junior School students from both the seventh and eighth grades showed up to compete with words from the list recommend by Scripps to schools nationwide for their 2018-2019 bees. After several rounds, Whit Uden ('24) spelled "banishment" correctly to win MBA's bee. After completing the online test on January 30th, Whit received notification that he scored within the top 50 in the state to advance to the Tennessee Titans Regional Spelling Bee at Nissan Stadium on February 16th. On that Saturday

Whit will compete against students from across the state for one of two spots in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. from May 26th-May 31st. The national spelling bee was founded in 1925 and has been held continuously since that time, excepting a three-year hiatus during World War II (1943, 1944, 1945). That makes this year the 92nd national spelling bee in our nation's history.



# RACE FOR THE CURE

By Middleton Henry

MBA students continue to support Susan G Komen for the Cure foundation by participating in the Race for the Cure. The 5K took place this past October (breast cancer awareness month) near the Maryland Farms area in Brentwood, Tennessee. The 8th grade football coach, Will McMurray, rallied our 8th grade football team while Coach Cirillo and Coach Story energized the 7th grade football team to participate. The team had just finished the football season, and the sixteen 8th grade football players signed up for the walk and wore our jerseys for this event. It was fun being with the team again and participating in this supportive

event. A feeling of camaraderie spread among us and the whole Harpeth Hall/MBA group as the 7th and 8th graders of Harpeth Hall and MBA met prior to the race in Maryland Farms for our own breakfast social. The Harpeth Hall girls wore their traditional green. Each of us was given pink tees as a participating gift as a token of appreciation of the Komen foundation. Despite the drizzling chilly weather, the whole morning, was an all feel good experience.

This event had 5,000 people signed up to race that day. The race promotes awareness and raises money for research. Harpeth Hall and Montgomery Bell Academy collectively raised around \$6,000 this year. The event raised a total of

around \$275,000. The organization behind Race for the Cure, the Komen for the Cure, has already raised a total of 2.2 billion dollars and is continuing to raise more. Komen even holds events in nine different countries. The hopes of the organization is improve health awareness by sending a message that early detection and early treatment improves survival rate. The long term goal is to find a cure for this type of cancer, so giving money toward research is paramount.





# Novice Debate

By Charlie Murff

The novice debate team went to Samford on January 11 heading to their first ever off packet tournament. The team had Chanden Climaco (8th) who went with Gene Herrmann (9th) as MBA CH and MBA EB that consisted of Ryan Estrin(9th) and Alex Barnard (8th). Along with them MBA GL, Marshall Green (8th) with Lenox Leverett (7th) and MBA AZ which consisted of Parks Asbury (8th) and Bryan Zhang (9th). Finally, there was MBA BM who was Asher Maxwell (9th) and Ben Bozza (11th). In the Varsity there were one and a half Junior School varsity teams. The half Junior School team was the team of Luke Kim (8th) and Ashwin Jain (9th) making the team MBA KJ. The other team was the team of Charlie Murff (8th) and Jack Young (8th) making the team MBA MY.

Starting off, MBA EB did very well going on to win 3 and lose 2, losing the two debates to future quarter finalists. MBA BZ put in a valiant effort and went 3 – 2 losing to some of the best teams in the tournaments. Another team that MBA sent in the novice division was MBA GL who in their first tournament together went 2 - 3 in a difficult tournament. The team of MBA CH did very well going 4 – 1 and moved to the elimination round. After a great debate with a very experienced team, they won. It is not all good news because they got



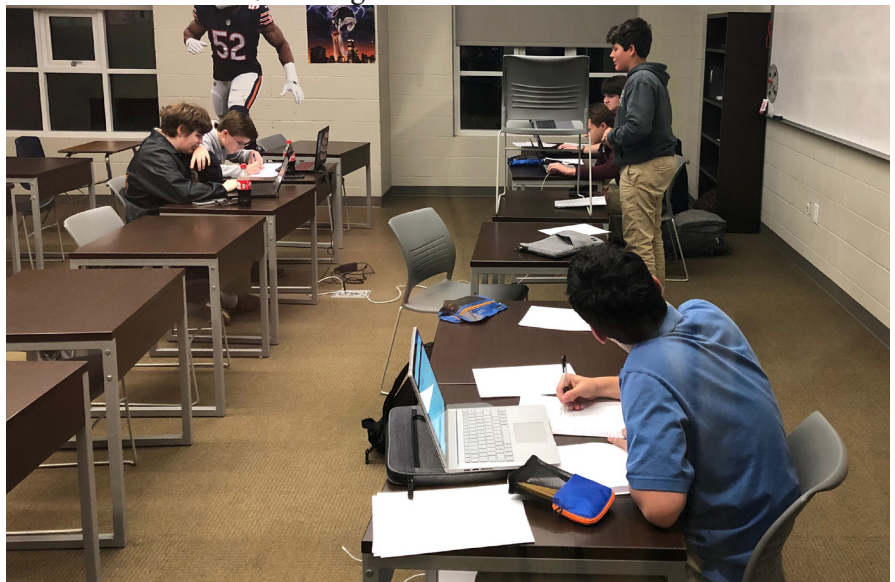
*Some Members of the MBA Novice Debate Team*

walked over by MBA BM, meaning they were out of the tournament. They were a little annoyed with the way they got out of the tournament, but they were still happy with their tournament performance. Along with that Gene Herrmann got the 10th award. Finally, MBA BM won their fifth tournament and each the first and second speaker awards (Ben Bozza (1st) and Asher Maxwell (2nd)).

MBA KJ's performance in the Varsity was quite good, winning two debates and losing four with a bye round win. They had a 4 very hard debates, including going against K teams and an array of different difficult debates. Also, during the

debate tournament, Luke Kim wrote a new HSI AFF advantage during the tournament. Along with MBA KJ, there was MBA MY who also did quite well winning 3 and losing 3 in the tournament. During the tournament MBA MY got there first ever win against a K-AFF with framework. They also got a chance to break in their second varsity tournament ever, but they ended up losing the round.

In the end, the tournament was a great experience for everyone involved. The tournament helped all the competitors get experience with debate so that everyone can get better with time.







# Big Red Junior School Chess Regional Results

The Junior School MBA chess club is in its second year. Under the leadership of senior Lucas Pao, the young chess players have experienced success in their first two tournaments.

On Saturday, January 26, at the Regional chess tournament the junior high results are as follows: Dhruv Chandra tied for 5th place, qualifying for the State Championships in a few weeks. Noah Perry and Middleton Henry tied for 8th place, narrowly missing out on qualifying for State on tie-breaks, and congratulations to Owen Henderson for winning the top unrated prize.

On February 3 at the 2nd annual Big Red Middle School Tournament all of the students played extremely well and earned some nice wins. Congratulations to Gabriel Young (1st) and Edwards Settle (3rd) in the Unrated section and to Middleton Henry as the top overall MBA player on the team!





# Top of the Hill Class Survey

**By Charlie Murff**

The *Top of the Hill* survey had nearly 145 respondents which is nearly half of the entire Junior School. So first off, I would like to thank everyone who responded. Your participation helped me and everyone on the *TOH* staff. The results of the survey are somewhat surprising, but with some predictability.

The first question: What is the best way to spend and/or waste time? The possible answers were *Netflix*, *Instagram*, *Snapchat*, and *YouTube*. I was expecting *Snapchat* or *Instagram* to win, but 55% of the 99 people who answered chose *Youtube*. *Netflix* came in second with 17% followed quickly by *Snapchat* at 16% with *Instagram* coming in last place at 11%.

The second question: What is the best video game platform to play? It was between XBOX, PS4, PC, and Nintendo Switch. With 100 people voting, not surprisingly, Nintendo Switch came in last place with barely more than 5% of people voting for it. In first place XBOX with 54% of people voting for it followed by PCs at 24% with PS4 coming in third place with 16% of the vote.

The third question: Which college team is your least favorite? This question was probably the most controversial because it could get people very mad. The choice was between Alabama, Vanderbilt, Auburn, and Tennessee which are each other's rivals. The most disliked team was Alabama with nearly 60% of the people who voted. Then Tennessee is in second place with 20%, and in third place Vanderbilt, who had 13%. Finally, Auburn was in last place with only 7% of people disliking them.

The fourth question: Which music genre is the best? The top three were pop/rap, 70s rock, and rap. Pop/rap had 62% of the vote and 70s rock had 27% of the vote. Finally the plain rap had roughly 11% of the vote. The final three places fought over the final 21%.

The fifth question was just for the 8th graders: Which class is harder, Latin or Earth Science? The winner was Earth Science with 32 percent followed by Latin with 27 percent. The third and fourth place go to the responses that both are difficult and neuter respectively. The final response category was neither or both are easy.

The sixth question, which is my favorite question, is the following: Which is your favorite video game? Unsurprisingly, the first place goes to *Fortnite* with nearly 30% of the vote. In second place is all of the *Call of Dutys* and tied for third is *Rainbow Six Siege* and *Super Smash Bros*. In fourth place is *Overwatch* with 8% of the vote, and in last place is *PUBG* with only 1%.

The seventh question: How excited are you for the next *Avengers* movie, *Avengers Endgame*? People on average are 64 out of 100 on being excited. The highest of the respondents was 100 and the lowest was 0.

The eighth question: What is your favorite part about MBA? The first part was friends with 85% of people saying they like seeing their friends every day. Another favorite thing is the food with 79% of people saying they enjoy the food (not surprisingly). The third thing that people like about MBA is the sports program with 68% of the voters checking the box. In the last two spots were school and clubs (respectively) with 52% and 32% checking these boxes.

The last question was just for the 7th graders: Which is more difficult IPS or Math? In first place was IPS by a landslide with 68% of the vote followed by both classes being equally difficult having 13% of the votes. Third place was none of the above with 9% followed by Math which had 8%. In last place with 1% was the response that all classes are easy.



# The Gory Beginning of Valentine's Day

By Gabe Lett

We all know Valentine's Day to be a day of love and kindness. The holiday may seem harmless, but St. Valentine was no lover or patron to the world. The holiday began as a liturgical feast to celebrate the decapitation of a third century Christian martyr. So, how do we get from death to love on Valentine's Day?

Ancient sources reveal that there were several St. Valentinus' who died on the beloved date February 14. We know this from the information that an order of Bollandists collected over years of time. The volume including February 14 has many of the Valentini and includes the earliest three who died in the third century. The earliest Valentinus was said to have died in Africa with twenty four soldiers. This is the only information recovered from the Bollandists on the first Valentinus.

The second of the three Valentines was a Roman priest. According to a medieval legend he was arrested during the reign of Emperor Gothicus and was put in the custody of Asterius who was an aristocrat. Asterius let the priest speak, and Valentinus spoke on Christ's leading pagans out of the shadow of evil into the light of truth. To make up for this little mistake that Asterius made, Asterius created a wager. If the priest could let Asterius' daughter see and no longer be blind, Asterius would convert. Valentinus cured his daughter by putting his hands over her eyes and chanting to God. According to the legend, Asterius and his whole family converted. Emperor Gothicus heard the news and was enraged, so he ordered them to be executed. However,



**Relics of St. Valentine of Terni at the basilica of Saint Mary in Cosmedin**

Valentinus was the only one beheaded. A pious widow buried his remains at martyr dome in Via Flaminia. Later a temple was built over the saint's tomb.

The third century Valentinus was a bishop of Terni in the province of Umbria, Italy. According to the legend, Terni's bishop got into a debate with a potential convert and afterwards healed his son. Emperor Gothicus had him beheaded, and he was buried along the Via Flaminia. Most likely there were not two decapitated saints on the same day, but two different versions in history. One from the Roman legend and one from the Terni legend. Indeed, medieval legends had St. Valentine performing Christian marriage rituals and passing notes between Christian lovers jailed by Gothicus. Yet none of these legends had any basis in the third century as the Bollandists pointed out in their texts. In history no one really cared for medieval Christians. Medieval people cared for miracles and martyrdoms, and the remains or relics of the saint. Many churches and monasteries in medieval Europe proclaimed to have pieces of St. Valentinus' skull in their treasuries. For example Santa Maria in Cosmedin still displays the entire skull of St. Valentinus. According to the Bollandists there are more churches that proclaim to this day to have pieces of his body. For Christians, the relics of the saint represented their invisible presence among non-Christians. In Britain during the eleventh century, a bishop used what was said to be St. Valentinus' skull to cure disease, stop fires, and stop demonic possession.

As far as we know the saint's remains did nothing special for lovers.

The love connection probably appeared more than one thousand years after the death of St. Valentinus, when the author of *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer, declared February 14 to be the day of bird mating. He wrote this in his *Parlement of Foules* "For this was on St. Valentinus' day. When every bride comes to kiss her mate." It seems that when Chaucer wrote this quote English birds paired off in order to produce eggs during February. English audiences embraced the idea of February mating, and soon most of Europe began sending love notes to their brides. For example, the French Duke of Orleans wrote to his wife that he was lovesick for her. Over time Englishmen and women began using the day as an excuse to pen verses to their love objects. Industrialization made it simpler by creating cards with romantic poems and notes. And soon enough, along came Hallmark which first truly "manufactured Valentine's day". Then quickly after came Hershey's and other chocolate and candy manufacturers saying a sweet for your sweetheart on February 14.

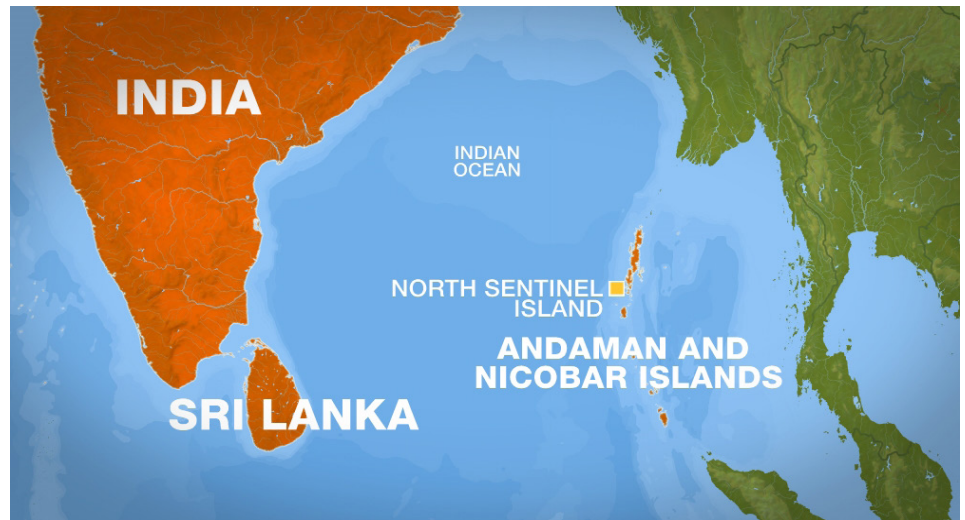
Today shops in England and the U.S. celebrate the annual Day of Love. Merchants cram their shop full with candy, jewelry, and cupid-related toys that cry out "Be My Valentine."

It seems that the saint of love remains as elusive as love itself. And much like love, St. Valentinus remains a mystery to society. Just like love this mystery can only be solved by faith.

# The Sentinelese People

By Harrison Dawkins

The Sentinelese people are a tribe on the North Sentinel Island in the bay of Bengal, very close to India. North Sentinel Island is off limits to anybody, resulting in arrest if laws and limits are broken. Unfortunately, this law is broken too often, resulting in injury and death. The Sentinelese do have a good reason to be hostile towards outsiders though. The first contact after what is thought to be 60,000 years, was made by Maurice Vidal Portman in 1880. Portman led an expedition guided by aboriginals from



landed on the island, and traveled deep into its jungles, finding the Sentinelese's abandoned huts. Pandit and his crew left gifts, candy, and pots in the huts. Later in the 70s, *National Geographic* sent a filmmaker to document the Sentinelese way of life. After landing on the North part of the island, the crew was met by a hail of arrows and spears. The crew decided to sail South, but

were soon met once again by warriors' shooting at them with long bows. The crew left coconuts, pans, a doll, and a pig. As they were leaving, a warrior hit the film director in the thigh with an arrow. From a distance, the tribe was seen burying the pig and the doll. Later in the early 80s, Pandit decided to revisit the island, meeting a small patrol of men. The

of North Sentinel Island. Shortly after setting foot on the island, the two men were shot and killed by two members. Later, a helicopter tried to retrieve their bodies, but received a hail of arrows once again. This led to a three mile exclusive zone act being made to protect the outsiders and the Sentinelese. Unfortunately, just recently a missionary from the U.S. broke the law and visited the Sentinelese. Using a kayak, John Chau paddled to the island, even after being grazed by arrows. Chau was killed shortly after setting foot on the beach. Since then, the Indian government has set strict laws, such as three years imprisonment for taking pictures of the Sentinelese and other such restrictions. These laws will help the endangered tribe regain their numbers after the tsunami, and hopefully keep the Sentinelese healthy and safe for many more years to come.



the Andamanese Islands. Portman was recorded to find six Sentinelese people; two elders and four children. He kidnapped these people and took them back to Port Blair, a town in India, where they became very sick. The two elders died, for their community hadn't been introduced to outside bacteria in millennium, but the children were sent back to the island with gifts, which the Sentinelese turned down.

The next contact made with the Sentinelese was made by an escaped convict from Port Blair in 1896. Soon after landing on shore, he was killed by the islanders. In 1967, Triloknath Pandit

men were observed to be carrying weapons; they were smaller than Pandit's crew, but were muscular and healthy. Pandit gave the Sentinelese coconuts, which were not native to the island. After this visit, modern society decided not to interfere or interact with the Sentinelese until decades later after the Tsunami of 2004. The Sentinelese had survived the tsunami by moving to higher ground. Unfortunately, less Sentinelese members were seen, in fact only one member was seen, firing an arrow at the helicopter. In 2006, two fishermen washed up on the beaches



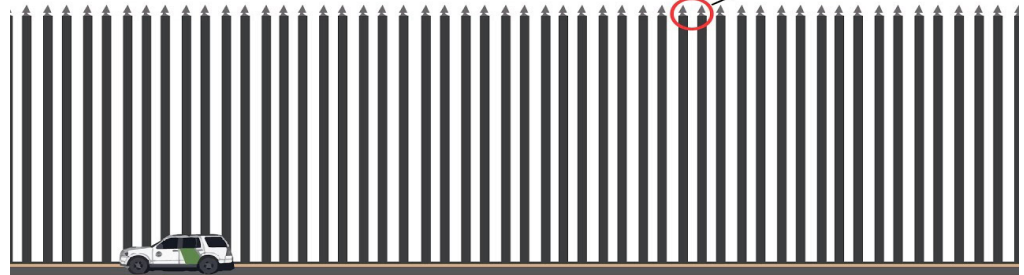
Picture of Sentinelese warrior shooting arrow at helicopter



# What Can \$5.7 Billion Buy Trump?

By Luke Kim

## \$5.7 BILLION



With the recent shutdown being started by Trump's stubbornness, whether good or bad, about the wall, what could we expect if Trump were given his \$5.7 billion? The Trump administration says that he would need about \$20 billion - \$50 billion to cover the border, so why \$5.7 billion? Trump's cool cash would get him a solid 215 miles of border walls in some of the areas Border Patrol cites as most important due to how many people cross them compared to other areas on the border. At most Trump's figure of 5.7 billion could cover 11% of the border. Of course these are some of the higher cost areas, but are there cheaper, more efficient options out there, and how could a wall work? The problems Trump cites as being reasons for a border wall (drugs and undocumented immigrants) have been what truly rallies people to his side of the wall (debate). First, the drugs.

Drugs don't go through the rural and wilderness areas the wall would cover. While drug trafficking is a big problem, a smarter solution starts at legal ports of land entry where around 86 percent of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and Fentanyl enter. These solutions could include looking inside the US, not its border by creating rehabilitation centers and areas that make the drugs safer by providing clean needles or unlaced drugs. The centers have been shown to reduce overall drug usage, and without buyers, sellers leave. These locations

found great success in regions like Denmark. I personally don't search cars for drugs, but I assume a quicker, more efficient, and better process can be found on the border itself. The second issue is undocumented immigrants.

First, let me get some things out of the way. I know, and am close with people who are illegal immigrants, I will try to not have bias on this issue, but it does affect me personally. Second, undocumented and regular immigrants don't increase crime rates and are even found to produce lower crime rates than native US citizens. Illegal immigrants, asylum seekers, and others are hurt by Trump and his administration's hardline approach. Whether conservative or liberal, we can all agree that people have basic human rights, and locking those away behind a slab of concrete (or the fence-like design Trump has) is not how to approach the issue. Undocumented immigrants don't take American jobs, but instead fall into the poor, harsh bottom of the economic totem pole. With these results coming from almost every study done on the issue (except Borjas), illegal immigrants aren't the target. While I think something needs to be done about the immigration system, I think the Trump administration could be handling it much better. \$5 billion could be used to patch the current holes in infrastructure and tech at ports of entry or be invested in programs to help the cultural or

workforce assimilation that is failing right now.

Finally, what everyone wants to hear, THE WALL. What to do and what to change. If I were to build a wall, I would have other laws changed including asylum and child-protection laws that allow families to use their children and claim they are asylum seekers to get into the US, and when they're deported, they just try again. This action coupled with how most illegal immigrants enter the US (overstayed visas, air, and water) would make me implement a myriad of reforms. The reforms would look at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and general immigration laws.

The wall has become a symbol of Trump whether Mexico does or doesn't pay, but what would it practically do and what does it stand for? Whether it be the savior of the American people or a human rights violation (which I'm not saying it is), the wall means something to both sides. This has made the fight for and against it hard and wearisome for those involved. The fight has led to a month long government shutdown and has only made our country more partisan than before, all for 11% of a secure border.

Sources:

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# Supreme Fall/Winter 2018 Recap

By Harrison Zoller

## What is Supreme?

When opening in October of 1994 on 274 Lafayette Street in what was an office space, “Supreme immediately became a skater hangout”(vice.com). James Jebbia, who is its founder, owned a shop called Union before working for Stüssy. He possessed an appreciation for both the aesthetic and thrill of skateboarding, but lacked a knowledge to enter a competitive environment. At the time, the skateboarding community was hesitant, “if not outright hostile”(Vice.com), to newcomers. Instead of leading, Jebbia gave his first hire, Gio Estevez, the responsibility. This resulted in the Manhattan location developing a life of its own. It became a second home to the skating community. No proxies waiting in a spiraling line, no apparel becoming mainstream, nothing but a small skateshop. Jebbia said in an interview for the book *Supreme* - 2010 Rizzoli, “The thing that really legitimized the store, I think, was the people who worked there, not me [...] The store was swarmed with all of these skaters because of the crew who were working there.” The vintage days of Supreme “with Harold Hunter, Jefferson Pang, Ryan Hickey, and others have been well documented, and that period has earned its rightful place in skate history.”(Vice.com). Today, Supreme has become a status symbol. Their streetwear apparel has replaced the attention of their skateboarding roots. Worth over one-billion dollars (*Wall Street Journal*), Supreme continues to dominate the resell market.

Each year, Supreme has two seasons: Fall/Winter-- and Spring/Summer--. Working around a weekly system, they release a portion of their broad clothing line every Thursday for eighteen weeks or so. Prior to their weekly releases, Supreme will give a preview of their line. When purchasing online, entire stocks of items will sell out within seconds. Once sold out, an item rarely restocks- furthermore increasing the resale value of the already name-brand item. If one were to attend an in-store drop, specifically the New York location, they will have to register online before the desired week to participate; then will be assigned a place in line at random on the Wednesday prior if approved. Once inside the store, an individual item may only be purchased once. On December 27th 2018, Supreme ended their Fall/Winter18 line of clothing. Within this article will be highlights of their collaborative apparel and most notable items.



*The Supreme shop on Lafayette in 2000 during a screening of the Alien Workshop video ‘Photosynthesis.’ Photo by Yuri Shibuya*



*Supreme®/The North Face® Expedition Fleece Jacket*

## Notable Weeks

On September 18th, week four of the F/W18, Comme des Garçons and Supreme released yet another iconic collaboration line. The most expensive item being the Supreme/

Comme des Garçons®/ Schott® Painted Perfecto Leather Jacket with a staggering retail of \$998, followed by a \$698 wool overcoat. Within the ten items featured one of the two box-logos they would release during the season. Designed with a “factory crease” down the middle, the box-logo tee features the Supreme logo split and backwards on the front. While the leather jacket and wool overcoat had the highest retail, the boxlogo(s) and a sweater had the highest resale in relation to their original price. The white colorway of the tee had a retail of \$54 and sold for a high of \$540 on StockX, while the tan colorway of the sweater had a retail of \$188 and sold for a high of \$1,265 on StockX.

On September 27th, week six of the F/W18, Supreme released a line of clothing in collaboration with Nike. Personally, I find the entire collection underwhelming compared to other collaborative weeks. The choices of either red, yellow, blue, or black, show little to no unique design featured on the clothing. The word “supreme” is printed on unnoticeable places, such as the

*Continued on page 13*



*Supreme®/Levi's® Quilted Reversible Trucker Jacket*



*Continued from page 12*

sleeves or lower back. However, one unique item would be a “reversible logo fleece” with Goretex. The word “Supreme” wraps around the fleece side, while it located on the breast in small letters on the ripstop poly side. The retail of the fleece(s) was \$228, and the white colorway has been sold with a high of \$1,100 on StockX.

On both October 18th and November 29th, week nine and fifteen of F/W18, Supreme produced their highly-anticipated The North Face collaboration. Pieces tend to be highly expensive as they provide both versatile and fashionable functions. On week nine, the “leather” collection featured leather red/green/black/purple shoulder-bags, waist-bags, and mountain parkas. While the bags were affordable- less than \$200, the parkas had a retail of \$1098. Because of this, resales were fairly low. Simply said, the goal for those reselling was to break even at best. Week fifteen, on the other-hand, was much more successful. Featuring both expedition items and casual items; everything sold out in minutes. The casual items, a hooded sweatshirt and tee, featured a vintage advertising photo on the front and came in bright solid colors. The expedition items, a jacket and fleece jacket, were The North Face products made from Gore-Tex material with an added Supreme logo; colorways included were blue/black, purple/yellow, and white/red. The expedition jacket had a retail of \$498 and the white/red colorway has been sold for \$1,625 on StockX. Likewise, the expedition fleece jacket had a retail of \$328 and the white/red colorway has been sold at \$1,150 on StockX.



*White CDG Box-Logo*

### Favorites

On November 1st, week eleven of F/W18, Supreme released my favorite collaboration of their entire season. “Levi’s is an American Institution and is known worldwide as the benchmark of quality Denim products” is a quote from a press-release announcing the release of the first-ever official collaboration between Supreme and Levi’s. The collaboration took place on September 15, 2011, and they have put forth a united line of clothing each year after that. This year the collaboration featured a reversible denim trucker jacket with a retail of \$268 and denim overalls with a retail of \$298. The items were fairly successful, with the trucker jacket reselling with a high of \$450 on StockX.

And most notably, on December 6th, week sixteen of F/W18, Supreme released their second box-logo of the season. Having already sold a hooded sweatshirt and tee (Comme des Garçons collaboration), they released a box-logo crew neck. Colors featured were ash grey, mustard, rust, dark green, bright royal, fluorescent pink, navy, black, and natural. Regardless of having nine color choices, all sold in less than a minute. Retail was \$158, all colors resold for more than quadruple. If you weren’t quick enough to purchase the initial release, like me, Supreme surprisingly restocked the website nearly thirty-minutes later. The black crew neck, which I managed to acquire, has sold for \$891 on StockX while the dark green has sold for \$1,150 on StockX.



*Lines gather outside Supreme Store in London*

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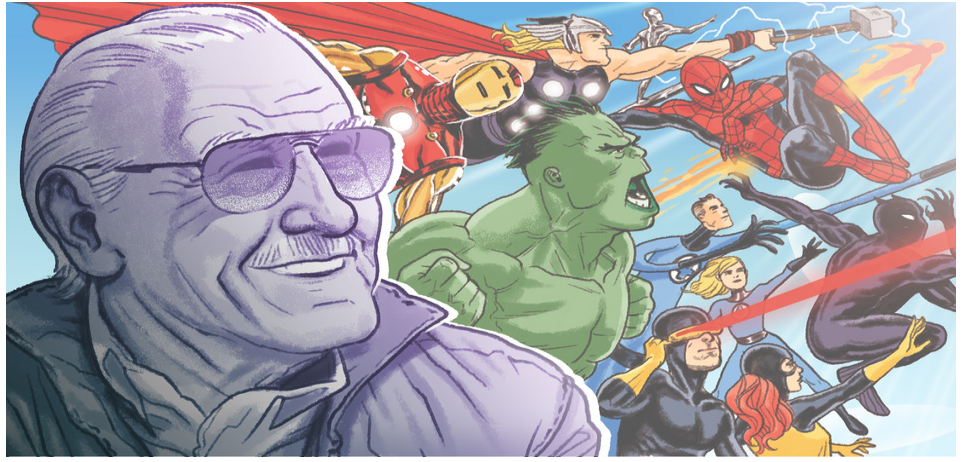
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# A Tribute to Stan Lee

By Charlie Murff

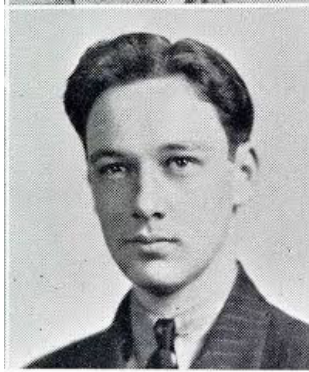


## I. Influence

On December 28, 1922 a comic book legend was born. His name was Stanley Lieber and his stories about superheroes and villains would go on to change the world. In his nearly 80 years in the comic book world, he brought the world such characters as Iron Man, Thor, and the Amazing Spider-man. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that he will go down in history as the most influential comic book writer in history. Starting as a child, he would lay the groundwork of what is to come.

## II. Early Life

Growing up in New York City in a family of Romanian immigrants, like many, was all fun and games during the Roaring 1920s. Stanley is said to have remembered very little about his childhood, but one thing that he did remember for sure was that his family was very happy. That is not to say that on the fateful day in October of 1929 his family's entire dynamic changed but in Stan's hazy accounts things change. For example the Great Depression caused the Stan's Dad, Jack Lieber, to lose his job which lead to Stan's mother, Cecilia, and his father to fight more which made Stan upset.



Another consequence of the Great Depression was that it caused the Lieber family to have to move to another much smaller apartment. But one positive thing that came out of it was that it gave Stan a strong work ethic which he first used in school, skipping multiple grades. As he moved up in school, he had a handful of teachers that inspired him to write more. One teacher for example, Mr. Ginsberg, embedded in Stan a love for reading and writing which would stay with him the rest of his life. As he got older, and he had to get a job, he learned about an opening at a news company where he would act as like an intern for the other workers. During this time the company he worked for started a writing contest, so Stan decided to send in a work, and he won the contest. Soon enough he had won the contest so often he was asked to stop applying as it was unfair to the other applicants. After Stan graduated high school he used his connections to get a job at Timely Publishing company where he was assigned to the comic division.

While in the comic division he met Joe Simon and Jack Kirby who both inspired Stan to work in the comic industry and to write. Joe, the writer, and Jack, the artist, worked together on *The Human Torch* which was the first comic book Stan ever got the pleasure to see made. As time went on and the world entered the 40's, Joe and Jack had an idea for a patriotic superhero named, you guessed it, Captain America. The comic book hero was a hit giving Timely Comics its first ever national success. After there had been a couple of issues of *Captain America*, Joe gave Stan a chance to write for *Captain America*. Stan was ecstatic for a chance to write his first ever comic. Although Stan, who at the time wanted to write the next "great American novel," decided that Stanley Lieber was too "professional" so he cut it in half, naming himself Stan Lee.

## III. War Time

Just as the name Stan Lee gained recognition in the comic book world, America entered World War II. The war took up the entire attention of Americans, leaving no time for comics. Thus, the end of what comic book enthusiast called "The Golden Age of Comic Books." Along with World War II came the volunteering of everyday men, which included Stan. When Stan heard the news that he was going to get a special position in the military, he was hesitant until he learned that it was going to be as a writer. Interesting enough he was

*Continued on page 15*



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not the only person who got the job. He was accompanied by a future Dr. Seuss named Theodore Geisel. As the world waged on, he still continued to write for Timely Comics, submitting book-after-book and issue-after-issue. When he got back to New York, he continued his job as an editor.

#### IV. Family Life

After the war it was the first time that Stan could remember that he had financial security. Also around this time, Stan met his future wife Joan Boocock who was a model at the time. As time went on and Joan and Stan got to know each other, Stan Lee decided to propose. Two years after they got married, Stan's mother died which left Stan's 15-year-old brother without



a mother. This situation led Stan's brother,

Larry, to move in with Stan and Joanie. In 1950 the couple had their first baby named Joan Celia Lee who Stan loved and nicknamed JC. Two years later the Lees were expecting another baby but a few days after she was born she died. Along with the death of their daughter, Joan got the bad news that she could not have another child again.

#### V. Importance and impact

By the 60s Stan decided that he was ready to start writing different comics with Jack Kirby again. But just as he was ready to leave, he got the assignment of creating a superhero team. So he created the Fantastic Four with Jack Kirby, and it did great.

The family aspect gave the readers a way to relate to the characters. This would start a ring of hits for the comic legend such as the *Avengers*, *X-Men*, and *Spider-Man*. After this Stan's life changed forever, and he became a global sensation. Stan had the ability to make any character relatable which is why people loved him and his characters so much. In the end, Stan Lee will be remembered most as just one of the greatest comic book writers of all time but as the one of the greatest writers of all time.

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# IEM Chicago: CS:GO Tournament

By Luke Kim

The Intel Extreme Masters Season XIII tournament in Chicago may sound like an odd, long name for a gaming tournament, and it is, so as a precursor to anything I write, I will be calling the event IEM Chicago as that is the name it most commonly goes by.

The IEM Chicago tournament is a groundbreaking tournament for North America, a secondary character in the competitive gaming world, as it will start IEM's new events for CS:GO with a hefty prize pool of \$250,000 per tournament. The tournament was quite one sided as the currently best team in the game swept its way to the champion's trophy. Astralis played as if it were regular matchmaking, winning games on nutty shots and even a 1 vs 5 ninja defuse. They ended up

facing the opponent they were the most afraid of in the group finals, FaZe Clan, who handed them their first defeat of the tournament 2-1. This upset left Astralis and their fans demoralized going into their next quarterfinals match against ESL One New York winners Mousesports. Astralis ended up sweeping the series 2-0 leaving Mousesports in the dust. Next up were Fnatic, a pro team that always competes and dominates at times, but never seems to come out on top. This repeated itself as Astralis handed them an L with a 2-1 score. Finally, Team Liquid, a past powerhouse who has returned atop the heap of teams its defeated, was to face Astralis. While I hype up my second favorite team (Team Liquid, North GG being my first), they were devastated when they lost 3-0 to the Danes.

While everyone loves the story of the champion, let's talk about the losers. IEM Chicago held many big name teams known for independent talent, trophies, and their ability to play with the best of the best. While I won't talk about the teams who compete, but never truly rise to the top, I will mention them. NRG, LDLC, Renegades, North.GG, BIG, eUnited (the only American team), and

Avangar all competed at a high level and deserve more praise than they get for performing well against the world's top talents. Some of the teams with the best talent or the most trophies fell flat this tournament. I was expecting big names like NaVi, Luminosity, and mibr to make it much farther than they did. NaVi, being most recently crowned the best team in the world was decimated by eUnited and BIG, teams that no one expected to make it to the playoffs. NaVi, while filled with talent and carried by S1mple, is just too inconsistent to be THE contender for the spot as the top team right now. Luminosity, a formerly great team, has fallen from greatness. The team used to be known as the best team in the world, but after Latin America's team shuffle, Luminosity continually falls short of its past self and is only a shell of what it was with coldzera and Fallen. The last big name with no game is mibr. This team consists of players, like coldzera, Fallen, Tarik, TACO, and fer which should be going all the way to the finals and back, but just can't. Big names like Stewie2k couldn't help the team either, I personally think that it's time for another Latin American shuffle.



## CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS: WIN MONEY!

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What: Short stories and poetry composed during the current school year.

Short story length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced

**Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest**

Prize: The best short story wins \$150!

***Due: Friday, April 19th***

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

\*\*\*\*\*

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1st place      \$50

2nd place      \$35

3rd place      \$10

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

Junior School Entries ***Due by Friday, April 19th.***



# First Man

By Carter Ozburn

*(No spoiler warning because everyone knows how Apollo 11 played out)*

When Neil Armstrong first set foot upon the moon, it sent a shockwave around the world. Everyone watching that fateful mission was amazed, stupefied, and inspired. This inspiration about what common Americans could accomplish greatly impacted America's future forever. This movie, directed by Damien Chazelle, best known for his works, *Whiplash* and *La La Land*, was a dramatic tribute to one of the most influential Americans to ever live, Neil Armstrong. Played by Ryan Gosling, the film goes back into his life as a young father, struggling for his family. Armstrong adores his baby daughter Karen, but knows that she may never recover from her brain tumor. After her death, he is never the same, always shaken up by the memory. His boys are both young, and Neil wishes he could care for them. Neil's wife, Janet (Claire Foy) is comforted by several new friends, but they move away.

Armstrong works extremely hard for his astronaut career and ends up flying a couple missions shown in the movie. The missions use incredible special effects and camera angles (I would not recommend seeing this movie if you get motion sick easily). All of the missions, the hard work, and the deaths, lead up to the Apollo 11 mission. This fateful mission requires several months of extensive training and study, simply pushing Neil farther into his own hole. After pushing through it, several of his friends die on their own missions, and he nearly dies on a later mission. He was attaching to the spacecraft Agena and found himself in a spin. The deadly spin was one of the most tense parts of the movie, and Neil eventually maneuvers his way out of it. Those nearly unsuccessful missions, as well as when Neil nearly dies while



piloting a Lunar Landing Research Vehicle, brings Armstrong criticism at first, but eventually the realization that it was not his fault. Neil Armstrong's training for this mission began after he crashed his LLRV prototype.

The training was vigorous and greatly prepared Armstrong and his other astronauts. This mission was unlike any that they had experienced before. No man had ever walked on the moon before Neil Armstrong and his crew. The Russian astronomical progress during that period of the Cold War was also astounding. Everything in Armstrong's entire life was riding on this one fateful mission being successful. Every single scanner, every single button, every single preflight and post-flight safety runs had to be made perfectly, without one tiny error, for this mission to be successful. All of the members of the ground control, all of the deaths, his family, his wingmen, his country were all depending on Armstrong to pull off the greatest astronomical feat up until its time. And he delivered. Chazelle delivered the most dramatic and awesome movie scene I have ever seen, playing the calming, beautiful theme music in the background as various engines are ejected from the rocket, and a myriad of buttons, signals, and coordinates are sent back to the ground control for affirmation. The lunar-landing itself

was also spectacular. It depicted Neil crying with joy, as finally avenging Karen and all his friends who died along the way, as well as his country, family, and wingmen. This great climax of the movie is the most-touching, and the most sympathetic to his life situation. Neil Armstrong had not been living the dream up until this moment, but this apex of his life, he will never forget. He will always remember, standing on the moon, saying the first sentence that popped into his head, the great, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Quickly, Neil is brought back to Earth with no difficulty and Chazelle ends with Neil and Janet's hands touching through the glass at Neil's quarantine facility. This is a great way to end the movie in a both ironic and inspiring way. It depicts Neil and Janet as so far apart, yet so close together.

In conclusion, I believe that this great representation of Neil Armstrong's life story and tribute was actually a legendary movie. I believe that this movie will also be known across the world, just as Neil Armstrong was. If you believe in hard-work ethics and concentration, this movie would be very inspiring. It tells the complete tale of the man who embodies those traits, who will forever be known as the "First Man."



# Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Is It Really Worth the Hype?

By Reed Sullivan

## What is Smash Bros. anyway?

*Super Smash Bros.* is one of the most popular series for all of Nintendo with its first of the five installments coming out in 1999; the next four installments have come out almost every three or four years after with the newest and most anticipated game yet, *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate*. The *Super Smash Brothers* series is a fighting game made by Nintendo where you can play as some of your favorite characters from many of Nintendo's most famous games, such as Mario, Link, Kirby, and even Pikachu. *Smash Bros.* is different from many other fighting games not only because it is a game where you can have interactive stages or platforms to fight on that are not only flat but also the amount of characters able to play at once. On the original *Smash Bros.* only four people could play but now, there can be up to eight people playing at once, which is four times more than most other fighting games.

## What is Special about The New Game?

Ever since March, 8 of 2018 when Nintendo released a video on *YouTube* of a teaser trailer with two popular characters from *Splatoon* joining the series, fans have been speculating what will be new in this game, and when will it come out. In June, a very detailed trailer during E3, a gaming convention, was shown providing the knowledge of what will be in the new game. There are many new things that have been added to *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate* to make it a better game such as having 69 characters (not counting echo fighters). Sixty-three of those characters make up every single character who has ever appeared in the series, and the other six make up new characters. Those characters are: Inkling (from *Splatoon*), Ridley (from *Metroid*), Simon (from *Castlevania*), King K. Rool (from *Donkey Kong*), Isabelle (from *Animal Crossing*), and Incineroar (from *Pokemon*). Along with the new characters are Echo fighters. Echo fighters are the way of Nintendo providing new characters without making the player wait for them to design it by just copying another character but only adding some new and different moves. A good example of the echo fighters are with Peach and Daisy both from the *Super Mario* games; they look different, and Daisy might run faster while Peach can do more damage with attacks, but they are essentially the same character. Next to all of the new fighters are all of the stages that are new. These stages are A new Battlefield, Great Plateau Tower, Dracula's Castle (1,2, and 3), a new Final Destination, Moray Towers, and New Donk City Hall. There are also over 25 new songs to play in the background during battle.

## World of Light?

*Super Smash Brothers Ultimate* is also the only game to have a story mode since Subspace Emissary in *Brawl*. The new story mode named World of Light is where all 72 playable characters are battling someone named Galeem who then uses beams of light to kill all but one character, Kirby who must then run around the three different maps to aim to free his friends from the spirits that Galeem has sent to possess them. Once defeating a character possessed by a spirit, any character that you have unlocked can use the spirit to aid them in battle. There are many types

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of spirits; all fighters can have one main spirit equipped and then up to three other smaller spirits helping them at once. The effects of a spirit can range anywhere from giving you the ability to breathe fire to making plates of spaghetti spawn while battling. Also as a type of mini-boss, all other 71 fighters are scattered throughout the map for you to run around and fight. These battles are usually a little bit harder than the normal spirit battles, but they won't take more than three tries to defeat at most. After defeating these mini-bosses, you are then able to use them in battle as your own character. Overall, this story mode is made completely different than the other *Smash* story modes, but it is new and better in many ways.

### Battling with People

As always, the main way that people are meant to play the game is under the Smash mode. The Smash mode is a very detailed mode where players customize their favorite way to fight with friend and have their favorite types of battles. You are able to customize how long you play for, how many lives you have, what stages you play on, if you are playing against your friend or the computer, and most importantly, what character you pick. In this game all 72 character are individual (except for the echo fighters) and all have their own style of fighting, moves, and specials. The specials are fighting moves that are specific and unique to that character only, even with echo fighters to some extent. A special is based on how the character fights in his or her original base game, for example, Mario's specials are throwing fireballs, which relate to his fire flower, or hitting his opponent with his cape from *Super Mario World*. Another example could be with the Inklings from *Splatoon* and *Splatoon 2* with their ink guns, paint brushes, paint rollers, and paint cannons. Another important factor in using the Smash mode is items which are small sprites in the game that if the character presses the A button while touching it, something important will happen, ranging from gaining a couple of percents of health back to instantly killing your opponent. Over all, there are ninety-eight items in the game with one of them being the assist trophy which is one of the most important as well as helpful items because it spawns a sort of side kick for the character who activates it and uses it. There are in total, fifty nine different assist trophies, a total twenty more than in *Smash 4*. There are many sidekicks and all of them are from other Nintendo games, such as Waluigi from *Super Mario*, or Skull Kid from *The Legend of Zelda*. Another useful Item is pokeball. The pokeball gives you a random Pokemon from a possible fifty-five and they can be anything from a meowth to a snorlax.

### DLC and add-ons

Starting with the last *Smash-Bros. Game*, Nintendo has released DLC for the game after its release. For anyone who does not know what DLC is, it stands for Downloadable Content. DLC is just something that you are able to buy for the game to make it better. For most games this could be another story mode or playable character. For *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate*, you are able to buy Challenger Packs which gives you a character to play as new stage and multiple new songs. There will be five packs that will be released at different times and finish releasing before next year. The first pack has not yet been released, but it has been announced that the character will be Joker, not the one from DC Comics, but rather Joker from *Persona Five*. Along with the five packs there is also another character that players can only unlock if they had pre-ordered or bought the game before January first this year. This character has not yet been available for playing, and this character is Piranha Plant from the *Super Mario Games*. Many people were disappointed when they found out that Piranha Plant from *Super Mario* was going to be a character rather than an important character like for example, Waluigi. In all honesty though, this character sounds very fun to play as, and I think that it may not be a powerful character, but just one that will be good to use. I can easily see myself eventually choosing Piranha Plant to use for many battles.

### What do I rate *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate*?

As I previously stated, I had been waiting for this game ever since March of last year. This game is one of the very few games that I have followed while it was being developed and until its release. I remember that in early August, I had gone to the Cool Springs Mall just to pre-order the *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate* edition Gamecube controller for the Switch with the adapter. I also remember on November 1st when this game had its second announcement video, and this one was forty minutes long. It included the announcement of two new characters, and the announcement that you could pre-download the game on the Switch starting that day as well as pre-ordering the DLC. On that day, I had purchased both because of my love for the game series, but not a month later on December 7, I was finally able to play this game and had stayed up until 11:00 PM to play it. Ever since, I have been playing vigorously on my quest to defeat Taboo and unlock all the characters. Because of the amount of new material brought to this game, I have a lot of respect for the creators, and overall, I love the game. On a scale of 1 to 10, considering everything that is new and amazing about the game I rate it a 9.8. Had it not have been for the poor quality of online play this game could have gotten a solid 10. Overall, right now this game is my favorite that I have on my Switch, and I will continuously find myself playing for years to come.



# Aquaman Review

By Alex Deerkoski

Does *Aquaman* drown under its great ambitions? I would state that the movie stays afloat for the most part. *Aquaman* is overall a solid movie with some flaws. First, the special effects are unbelievable. The underwater kingdom of Atlantis is mesmerizing to behold and looks extremely realistic. If you as an audience member have the opportunity to see this movie in IMAX, it would absolutely be worth it. The movie is very consistent in the quality of the scenes it provides for the viewer. Unfortunately, the movie is too long, and it almost feels like the amount of things that could be put into three movies, was put into one. There were two good villains in the movie, but two were not needed. One of the perfectly good villains did not have to be wasted in this film and could have been used in *Aquaman 2*. The movie feels overlong as a whole, but the extra things don't seem important enough to be even necessary in the film. Also some of the writing in the movie is poor. While there are some great and inspirational moments of dialogue, there are also

some laughably bad lines in the movie. The movie also feels like *Black Panther* underwater, with the hero fighting for the throne, and challenging a cousin in combat. Also, Jason Momoa is a great lead as *Aquaman* who manages to be charming, but unaware of the dangers of what is to come.

The score of the film is well done and uplifting at times. Most importantly, the action is very well choreographed and enjoyable to behold. The action is outrageous and over the top at times, but that adds to the wow factor of the film. The blue and green colors of Atlantis will be matched with explosions of battle, and there is so much for your eyes to behold. Also, the movie has some pretty funny moments, which of course add to the film. However, alongside

these positive moments, on occasion, the film tries too hard to make an emotional impact, even though it does not achieve an emotional level at all in the movie. The direction of the film is also solid, as James Wan knows what the audience wants, and therefore, gives the maximum opportunity for the film to shine in the way the camera displays what is going on. However, James Wan is a horror director, and sometimes there are unnecessary jump scares that feel really out of place in an action movie

Rating 6/10: Overall, although a bit prolonged, *Aquaman* is a movie with great action, outstanding effects, and a charming cast, that is worth the price of admission and is another solid installment into the DC Extended Universe.



Spring Break  
Dates:  
March  
15 - 24  
& Field Day  
March 25



# I'm Sorry, a What Box?

By Jack Forbes

A *Netflix* special involving a critically acclaimed actor, gripping plot, the weird actor from *Red*, and birds. I know what you are thinking, what could go wrong? Sounds like fun, but remember, that is what they said in *Lord of the Flies*. *Bird Box* is what would be considered more of an action thriller instead of a horror movie, but the underlying plot is creepy. Creatures that cannot be seen but simply are seen begin showing up in western Europe, with a horrifying power. The ability is to show you your worst fear, greatest loss, or greatest regret, and amplifies these fears, losses, or regrets to the point of suicide. Like I said, really messed up plot, but the story is more of a tale of survival than horror. The basic plot is that after these creatures show up on the news, nobody reacts and grabs a shotgun and their bug out bag, but instead they continue life as normal. Go figure, it is just like that Geico commercial where they are set in a horror movie, and they decide to hide in the cemetery or the chainsaw factory. Horrible decisions lead to horrible results in horrible situations. So when the creatures come to North America, they hit the population like the plague, wiping out millions within hours. One woman, who just happens to be nine months pregnant when all of this mayhem starts, manages to find shelter in a rich architect's house. They soon figure out that if you look at the monsters, you die, so they plaster newspaper all over the windows and have blindfolds at their side at all times. Resupply missions are accomplished via a car and GPS, and life is going great, until they let someone in who seems friendly. Surprisingly, the weird guy (John Malkovich) from *Red* senses something is off with him and tries



to force him out, to which the group responds by knocking him out and putting him in the garage. Another ability the creatures have is to show a select few their greatest want, so they will try to take other people's blindfolds off, to which that person will then kill themselves. For those unfamiliar, "I told you so," is one of the guy's (John Malkovich) catch phrases in *Red*. Maybe, that is not a coincidence. The man tears down all of the newspaper on the windows, puts the birds in the freezer (I am done asking questions with the birds), and forces two people to look at one of the creatures. In addition, the pregnant woman gives birth along with another pregnant woman who kills herself shortly after. Like I told you... really messed up. The evil man is shot with a twelve gauge shotgun in the chest by a friendly man (Matt), who then gets the woman (Mallorie, names are hard to keep up with in this movie) with the two babies and abandons the house. They go from house-to-house, before Matt, kills himself after taking off his blindfold to fight more of the men who have seen the "light." Mallorie eventually makes it to a school for the blind and stays there with her two children for the rest of her life. Yes, that is one theoretical perk of being blind. If you are ever being attacked by demon-like creatures that cannot be seen but are seen, are afraid of birds (Seriously, I am done with the birds), and drive people to suicide, it would be best to be blind.

The movie focuses on more of

what life would be like in that situation, and how it would be possible to survive instead of focusing on the creatures. I would have liked a mix of both. Backstory on the creatures as to what they are, what they look like, where they come from, and why they came out at this particular time would have been nice, but that never happened. The birds are also confusing. If you are going to name your movie the *Bird Box*, you should incorporate the birds into the plot better. The birds only serve as a warning device from what I could tell (maybe the creatures are afraid of them), because they would chirp when a creature was nearby. Why did it have to be birds though? You could have gone with any creature, and you chose birds.

One last note is the rise of horror/action movies where one of your senses is removed from the picture. A couple of recent examples are *A Quiet Place* (thank you, Mr. Thor) and *Hush*. What is so intriguing about having one of your senses removed from the equation in a survival situation? An interesting question; one you will have to decide for yourself, but for me it was the question of if I could survive that situation. Overall, the movie was appealing to your curiosity and intriguing, so I would give this movie a 9.0/10 on the Big Red movie scale.



# Top 10 Marvel Movies



By Alex Deerkoski, Carter Ozburn, and Reed Sullivan

## #10: *Spider-Man: Homecoming*

*Spider Man Homecoming* was a fantastic film that started Marvel's take on a classic superhero, Spiderman. This movie greatly represents Marvel's intentions with Spiderman, with a modestly impressive villain played by freaking Michael Keaton. Meet Adrian Toomes, a scavenger who finds his company shut down by Shield. He salvages several important pieces of alien tech and builds himself a giant bird suit. Why a bird? Nobody cares because Peter Parker has a crush on his daughter, and when homecoming rolls around, Michael Keaton becomes Michael Keaton. In this epic, inspiring film, Marvel pulls out all the stops to make you love the new *Spider Man*.

## #9: *Ant-Man*

Funny and action packed, *Ant-Man* maintains its size throughout the movie. The villain may be forgettable, but the humor keeps this movie standing. This was really the only movie besides *Guardians of the Galaxy* to aim almost completely for laughs. The action is also compelling, as most of it is shrunk down to Ant-size, which make the battles really unique. Paul Rudd is perfect for the role of Ant-Man, as he is funny and charming, but also cares about seeing his daughter again. In the movie, nothing that serious happens; therefore, *Ant-Man* is a movie that can just be enjoyed, without real emotion or serious moments. *Ant-Man* is a movie that everybody will love because it goes back to the roots of superhero films, boasting fun characters, lots of humor, and great action.

## #8: *Thor: Ragnarok*

*Thor: Ragnarok* is definitely one of the most funny movies in the MCU. The past two *Thor* films were known for being serious and boring at times. However, Director Taika Waititi had a different vision for the films. The entire film is colorful and bonkers, which makes the movie so much better. Also, the banter between Hulk and Thor is really well done. The villain in the film is also good and is not forgettable like most of the Marvel villains. The music in the movie is also very cool and well done. The acting in the movie is also very good, as you understand and learn to like most of the characters. Overall, *Thor: Ragnarok* is a funny, lighthearted film that will please MCU fans.

## #7: *Captain America: Civil War*

*Captain America: Civil War* is the movie you all have been waiting for. This great film starts with chaotic Avengers forced to take sides when the American government comes into play. The old Tony Stark-Steve Rogers rivalry comes back, with several new pawns on the board. Spiderman, Black Panther, and Ant-man enter this movie, each playing somewhat large roles in the amazing action scene between the Rogers and Tony sides of the Avengers. A common villain is introduced, an actually formidable and incredibly smart man with no real villainous experience. He plots to kill the Avengers from the inside, and very nearly succeeds. Discover the full story behind the splitting of the Avengers, and the drama that comes with in this fantastic, climatic, comic-book movie.

## #6: *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*

*Captain America: Winter Soldier* finally portrays Captain America in the right way. The spectacular display of great action, and surprisingly mystery, Cap and several new friends discover that Hydra had been operating within Shield for many years. They are determined to track him down, but a new enemy approaches. The Winter Soldier is Bucky Barnes, one of Cap's childhood friends and a complete match for Cap. Watch, as Cap is forced to bargain the lives of everyone he ever loved to discover and track down the Winter Soldier.

Continued on page 23



Continued from page 22

#5: *Iron Man*

One of, if not the most well known superhero is Tony Stark aka Iron Man. *Iron Man* is the Marvel movie that started them all, coming out on May 2, 2008 with Robert Downey Jr. playing Tony Stark. This movie is well known for having some of the most impressive CGI for its time. The main story is that the arrogant billionaire playboy, Tony Stark is taken hostage by a terrorist organization and is forced to escape by building a robotic suit made from the leftovers of the weapons he was designing. He then escapes in the Iron Man MK IV suit and goes to fight evil with it. This movie is one of my favorite Marvel movies because although Tony Stark is hard to like at times in the movie, based on his decisions; his alter ego Iron Man is one of the coolest characters in the whole Marvel Universe.

#4: *Black Panther*

One of the most successful films of all time, *Black Panther* was a great film for the entire world to see. It stands alone as a great action movie with amazing fight sequences and great villains, but also as a film with great messages. Making approximately 700 million dollars in America alone, people wanted to see an African American superhero become a blockbuster success, and it absolutely held up as a film, being nominated for Best Picture both in The Golden Globes and The Oscars. *Black Panther* was a culturally relevant film that shocked the world for its great quality as an action film and also a cultural drama.

#3: *Guardians of the Galaxy*

Arguably the funniest film in the MCU, *Guardians of the Galaxy* shocked the world for not only being good, but for being a great movie. No one thought that a movie starring a tree and a talking raccoon could be any good, but director James Gunn proved everyone wrong. The movie cruises along with nostalgic music and hilarious jokes. Every character gets their moment in the film, and that's why the movie succeeds. At the end of the movie, an audience member will have learned to love most of the Guardians of the Galaxy. After it came out, people were praising the movie so much, that a sequel was demanded very early on, and that is why it is so high up on the list.

#2: *Avengers: Infinity War*

The movie that the entire world was waiting for was *Avengers: Infinity War*. Quite possibly the most anticipated movie of all time, but there was some doubt that so many legendary characters could come together. And, once again the Russo brothers directed a film that not only did well in giving all the characters important roles, but also ended up doing that job spectacularly. The movie is epic, as the action sequences are really well done. Josh Brolin also does a great job acting as Thanos, creating the most memorable film in Marvel history. The ending shocked the world and left audiences with the biggest cliffhanger since *The Empire Strikes Back*. *Infinity War* was overall a gargantuan film that absolutely lived up to the hype for the movie.

#1: *Avengers*

Marvel's *The Avengers* is one of the greatest movies of all-time. Its revolutionary use of special effects, action,



and plot left everyone gasping for more. The storyline is simple, yet powerful, with a great indispensable villain intent on entirely destroying the human race and conquering the Earth. With the help of his alien army, the Chitauri, he attempts to take over the world, with himself as the top ruler. After the large destruction of Shield's facility, Nick Fury must gather all of the world's greatest heroes in this spectacular introduction to the *Avengers* series, even if the most deadly enemy to the Avengers is themselves.

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# Is “Africa” the Best Song Ever?

By Samuel Kinch

“Africa” by Toto debuted on their album, *Toto IV* and according to Jeff Porcaro, is about “a white boy [who] is trying to write a song on Africa, but since he's never been there, he can only tell what he's seen on TV or remembers in the past.” It hit the #1 spot on Billboard Top 100 in 1983 and was overplayed on both MTV and the radio during its peak popularity and still gets the occasional play on the radio now. Its popularity has stayed with it far past its peak, and that is because “Africa” is the greatest song ever written.

“Africa” is overlooked by many people as the amazing song that it is, because of its extreme popularity. Ignoring this song should be a crime. “Africa’s” deepness goes far further than most would expect. When you uncover the layers of this fantastic song, you start to see



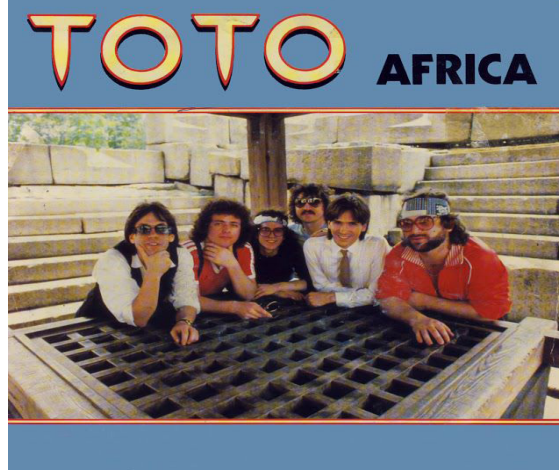
its depth and brilliance. The lyrics of Africa mean different things to different people, and to fully experience the song, listen to it, not for enjoyment, (which you will have anyway) but for the impact of the lyrics. The most common analysis of the song goes as follows: A man goes to Africa because of all he has heard of it. He comes into the country on a 12:30 flight, as mentioned in the song, and meets an elder at the terminal. The elder says, “Hurry boy, it’s waiting there for you,” encouraging him to go on with his journey and experience Africa. In Africa he sees many amazing sights, like the tribes playing their drums, and “The wild dogs cry[ing] out in the night.” He will never be able to forget the things he sees there and may never be able to leave Africa. The boy falls in love with the country and blesses everything in the country, most importantly, the rains.

A second hallmark of the song is the catchy instrumental. It was created with a wide collection of instruments, including: bass drum, snare, hi-hat, conga, cowbell, shaker, bass guitar, synthesizers, electric guitar, and piano, all these instruments to capture the enticing background to the greatest song

ever created.

Part of the love of “Africa” comes with its story. The story of “Africa” begins with Jeff Porcaro, age 11, “I was about 11 when the New York’s World Fair took place, and I went to the African pavilion with my family. I saw the real thing; I don’t know what tribe, but there were these drummers playing, and my mind was blown. [...] I set up a bass drum, snare drum, and a hi-hat, and Lenny

Castro set up right in front of me with a conga. We looked at each other and just started playing the basic groove.... [...] We played for five minutes on tape, no click, no nothing. We just played. [...] We went back in, cut the tape, and made a one-bar tape loop.” This summary does not give the actual interview its worth, the website is in the footnote. The development of the song, is



really interesting, and the amount of work put into the making of the beat is truly astounding, knowing that it was all “analog” as they put it.

For any song to be the greatest song ever, it must have a catchy beat, meaningful lyrics, and flow. In “Africa” all three are embodied.





# Writers' Corner



## “Freak Show”

By Chase Thor

Three loud knocks erupted from my front terrace. “FBI, open up!”

I stopped dead in my tracks. What could the FBI possibly want with me?

“Mister... Miller? We have a warrant to search the premises on suspicion of interference with a high-level criminal invasion, espionage, and treason.”

My heart rate increased tenfold, and the hair on the back of my neck stiffened.

“Sir, please do not make me break down your perfectly functional door. We know you're in there.”

Slowly, I turned the knob to let the agents into my condo. To say I was surprised with what greeted me would be a gross understatement. An alphabet soup of law enforcement agencies met me in the hallway.

I muttered under my breath as the crowd of government officials surged past me into the foyer. Cameras began to flash as fingerprint powder dusted every object in sight. My head hurt; my mind took in information faster than it could process. A short agent handed me a piece of paper, which I unfolded and read. It took a fraction of a second to realize what it was.

### SEARCH WARRANT

ISSUED BY: SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I started to remember now: the diamond tattoo on his shoulder; the way the straight razor glinted in the dim light of the alley, the saw; it all came back to me. My face turned white while all the blood in my body sank to my feet, blurring my vision and weakening my legs. As I fell, the coroner's assistant rushed over. I seized on the carpeted floor for a good minute before returning to the conscious world. I was sat down in a chair while lights shined in my eyes; the coroner gave me a hefty dose of corn syrup to swallow which was absolutely disgusting. I was beginning to feel normal again when I heard a voice from behind.

“Mister Miller?” spoke a woman from behind me.

I spun around to face the agent standing behind me. She was about one and a half meters tall with light, curly blonde hair springing off of her shoulders looked deep into my eyes.

“We need the code to your safe.”

I shook my head, looked up, and spoke the words, “thirty, thirty-two, twenty-seven.”

“Thank you.”

I watched her as she made her way back to the master bedroom. She disappeared through the doorway; then a shrill shriek came from the same direction in the form of one syllable.

“Gun!”

ATF and CSI officers rushed towards the agent holding my Makarov pistol in a gloved hand. Applying gloves of his own, an ATF agent took the gun, removed the magazine, and cleared the chamber in one swift movement, handing the extra bullet over to the CSI. Another scream came from the kitchen, turning my face even paler than before. By the time that the FBI special agent rounded the corner holding a severed human head, I had already unclasped my necklace and taken the potassium cyanide pill that I carried with me at all times. The coroner's assistant rushed over to me, having noticed the foam being emitted from my mouth and my body's wild seizing on the dining room floor.

One Hour Later

The coroner unbuttoned the suspect's shirt, attempting to figure out the cause of death. All that could be discovered with a simple visual examination, though, was a large tattoo of the Russian flag covering the man's entire chest.



By Frank Hancock

At the beginning of the 2018-2019 College Football year, we all thought, or actually knew that somehow Alabama and Clemson would somehow find their way back to each other for Bama-Clemson Part IV. No matter how much the news media complained that Clemson and Alabama's meeting up for four straight years and its being "bad for college football," we all wanted to see them play again. We wanted to see the two best teams in the nation battle out somehow, someway whether in a semi-final or the national championship. This time you couldn't set it up any better. Both teams undefeated, ranked #1 and #2 and blowing out almost everyone they played. Both quarterbacks who played in the 2018 Sugar Bowl Semi-Final didn't show up for this game. Tua Tagovailoa replaced Jalen Hurts in the National title game, and Trevor Lawrence was named starting quarterback over Kelly Bryant. Even with the rainy weather days leading up to the game, these teams still came ready to play rain or shine, well... almost everybody.

After all the pre-game hype, the national anthem, an introduction of starting line-ups, and everything else, it was time to play. Alabama won the coin toss and elected to defer to the second half. On Clemson's first possession they went three-and-out and punted back to Bama. Three plays into Bama's first possession, Tua drops

back and throws towards Jerry Judy, but A.J. Terrell jumps the route, picks it off and takes it 44 yards to the house to open up the scoring. Alabama got the ball back after the pick six, and then we saw Alabama's response. Tua to Judy 62 yards walking into the end-zone to tie the game 7-7 with 12:05 left in the first quarter. After a 62 yard throw from Trevor Lawrence to Tee Higgins, Travis Etienne runs it in from 17 yards out to respond to the Alabama touchdown. But again Alabama answered, going all the way down the field to set up a one yard touchdown pass from Tua to senior tight end Hale Hentges, but kicker Joesph Bulovas misses the PAT to make the score 14-13. After a Clemson

punt, Alabama goes 45 yards to kick a field goal and take their only lead of the game at 16-14. The field goal would also be the last points Bama would score the rest of the game. On the next possession, Clemson went on a 65 yard drive that resulted in a one yard touchdown run by Etienne for his second score and a 21-16 lead over Bama. Alabama's next drive took a turn for the worse. Tua throws a ball way over receiver Jerry Judy's head and it's picked off by Trayvon Mullen. This interception leads to a 47 yard drive and another score on a shovel pass from Trevor Lawrence to



Etienne which extend Clemson's lead to 15! This score was Etienne's 3rd touchdown. He would score more points single handedly than Alabama's entire team. The Vegas odds did not expect this craziness. After another Alabama punt, Greg Huegel made his first and only field goal of the night to put the score at 31-16 at the half.

The second half was controlled by Clemson. Alabama got the ball at the start of the 2nd half and went right down the field to the Clemson 22 to sent up a field goal attempt. Of course, this field goal was going to be a fake. You could see it a mile away from the communication of the sidelines to the Clemson setup, everyone saw it coming. After the snap, kicker Joseph Bulovas fakes the kick and goes up to block so 3rd-string quarterback Mac Jones can run right up the middle. Clemson was ready for it. Nyles Pinckney comes right up the middle and stops Jones for a loss

of 2 yard to make it a turnover on downs. Even Kirk Herbstreit, the color commentator for the game on ESPN said it, "Had no chance". Three plays into the Clemson

drive Trevor Lawrence hits Justyn Ross, the Alabama native, for a 74 yard touchdown, but this was not an ordinary touchdown; Ross had broken his initial defender's ankles. No really! Cornerback Saivion Smith had to be helped off the field after the play. After Ross took him down, he made safety Deionte Thompson fall to the ground. Then Ross outran Thompson, Patrick Surtain, Jared Mayden, and everybody else on the field, but the PAT was missing off the upright. The next Alabama drive was much like the first in the second

*Continued on page 27*



*Continued from page 26*

half: long drive that ended in a turnover on downs. This time Tua tried to run, but Clemson's D-line stopped him. Then came the last score of the game, but probably the best play of the game was a 3rd and 12 from the Clemson 25. Trevor Lawrence completes a pass to Justyn Ross who bobbles the ball and catches it with one hand and gets one foot in bounds. Even though it wasn't a touchdown, it was the most acrobatic play of the game. This play helped set up a 5 yard pass touchdown from Lawrence to freshman wide receiver Tee Higgins. The next drive ended the game. Alabama goes down the field inside the 25 yard line. Tua again tries to find an open hole to run through on 4th and Goal but is stopped by senior defensive lineman Clelin Ferrell. After an exchange of punts, Clemson got the ball for one final drive. This one was 14 plays, 94 yards and took all of the time off the clock. The backups came in for Clemson and took every last second off it. Clemson was National Champions!



The stars of this game were clear: Trevor Lawrence was 30 for 32 with 347 yards, 3 touchdowns and zero interceptions. Running Back Travis Etienne had 14 carries for 86 yards, 2 touchdowns, and one receiving touchdown. Justyn Ross had 6 receptions for 153 yards and 1 touchdown. On the Alabama side, Tua Tagovailoa was 22 for 34 for 295 yards, 2 touchdowns, and 2 picks. Their leading rusher was Najee Harris who had 9 carries for 59 yards. Leading receiver Jerry Judy had 5 catches for 139 yards and 1 touchdown. Both teams had excellent seasons, with both 14-0 coming into the game,

but Clemson was the best, and there's hope for more national championships with Lawrence, Ross, and Higgins only being freshman, and Etienne a sophomore. On the defensive side, most of the linemen are leaving for the NFL, but Dabo has recruited well and will have enough good players to win a championship next year. And next year for Alabama will probably start the same with

Alabama reloading in all positions. Tua will again be a frontrunner for the Heisman Trophy, as will Lawrence. Clemson has become the first team to go 15-0 since the 1800s. And with both teams reloading next year, do not be surprised to see them in New Orleans in January 2020.

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## **GET READY TO PERFORM!**

### **April is National Poetry Month**

### **It is Time for the Annual Junior School Recitation Competition**

Entry level performance competitions begin in each English class in April, with winners from each class moving on to the main competition in Massey Commons on Tuesday, April 9 and Wednesday, April 10.

The seventh-grade finalists and eighth-grade finalists will face off for the grade level winners on Wednesday, April 17 in the Dead Poets Room.

Prizes are awarded to each grade level winner.  
Contact your English teacher or Mrs. Roberts for more information.

# Predator Traditions

By Middleton Henry

The Predators finally broke their losing streak on New Year's Day! Here we come 2019! Too bad I happened to attend the game right before the win. I was pumped and decked out in Preds garb and wanted this win as much as any other Preds fan. I arrived early to the Bridgestone Arena to enjoy the pregame excitement. I had not seen the fish tank that was installed last April the first day of the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs. The tank which originally was in the home of Preds co-owner, Herb Fritch, now rests in the hall of Bridgestone Arena section 118/119. Two catfish, named Gill and Ben, currently have taken residence in the tank. Gill was chosen to live in the Arena since he weighs the same as the Stanley Cup which if you did not know is 34.5 pounds. He was named after Vince Gill. The other fish, Ben, is named after Ben Butzbach who was known as the biggest fan of the Predators and passed away this past year. Two more room(tank)mates are expected to join Ben and Gill. The plan is to have four fish, which is the symbolic amount of wins necessary to advance in a series.

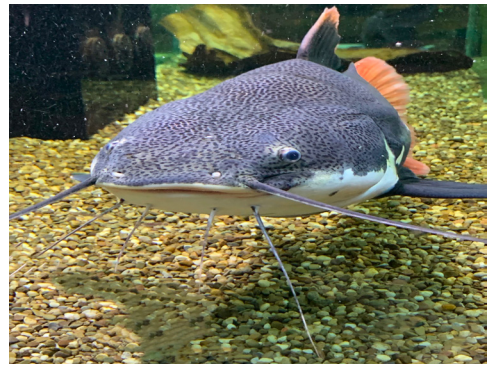
After a picture with Ben and Gill, I headed to my seat behind the team. I looked up at section 303, the Cell Block, with their rattling tubular thundersticks. This section is known for having their own rowdy cheers. I could easily feel the energy from the crowd as soon as the game started. The announcer said it was the 169th game in a row to sell-out. The fans are dedicated and supporting a team that has had a losing streak of 7 games. Well, if you are a Preds follower you know that many of our best players have been injured in recent months,

so us fans have been waiting for these guys to mend. Just a few months ago, the Predators were on top of their game and had the best record. Then our ice started to crack as players were dropping with injuries. First, Viktor Arvidsson had an injury twice in three days and then was followed by P. K. Subban who returned with Arvidsson on December 27 against the Dallas Stars. The other players which remain on the injury list: Filip Forsberg, Colton Sissons, Yannick Weber, and Kyle Turris



have not returned.

As you can guess, the Predators unfortunately did not score the entire



*Ben or Gill?*

game, so I never saw any fish casualties. I am referring to the iconic custom of throwing catfish when the Preds score a goal. This custom began in 1999 during a game against the Detroit Red Wings. A local bar owner decided to cast a catfish onto the ice in response to the Detroit custom of throwing octopi. The catfish is in reference to the Cumberland River. As for Gill and Ben, they are on the "protected list". Ben, Gill and future inhabitants of the tank will remain safe in their tank as mascots of Smashville.

## Preds Score On-and-Off the Ice

By Jaxon Leasure



*Devon Roque and Pekka Rinne*

Are you a Nashville Predators fan like me? You like to cheer on the home team... but did you know there's more to cheer for? Let's take a look behind the scenes! The Nashville Predators realize their important role in the community - beyond what takes place on the ice. One example is how the Predators offer youth hockey players the opportunity to participate in a Mattias Ekholm Hockey Clinic. This event benefits the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a charitable foundation that makes dreams come true for children with critical illnesses.

Another amazing thing the Predators have done with the Make-A-Wish foundation is granting "Wish Kid" Devin Roque, an 8-year-old currently battling cancer, a Predators themed wish. Devin got to do many things and even got to help Pekka Rinne get warmed up before a big game. The Predators love serving the Nashville community by making special appearances and making people feel special. Recently, the Predators partnered with the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home organization. TBCH cares for children in difficult circumstances by providing a home for them or by helping to place them in foster care. The Nashville Predators gave these children a day to remember when they took the kids bowling!

I hope this makes you want to root for the home team! Go Preds!



# Most Improved NFL Teams of the 2018 NFL Season

By Jose DeLemos

## 1. Chicago Bears

You may think that I'm putting the Bears at No. 1 because I am a Bears fan, but that is not true. The 2017 Bears were 5-11 and fired their head coach John Fox during the 2017 season. The Bears had the No. 1 defense in 2018. With that came the most defensive takeaways (36), the most interceptions (27), least yards allowed per attempt (4.78), and least points allowed in a game (17.7). With this Super Bowl caliber defense, the Bears are most likely to win a Super Bowl in the next five years. The defense is not the only thing to be worried about from this team, Pro Bowl quarterback Mitch Trubisky is developing more and more as a quarterback. Especially under new head coach Matt Nagy. The new head coach has some great trick plays up his sleeve and is doing a great job developing the young quarterback. Do not be surprised when Trubisky is holding the Lombardi high over his head, along with a Super Bowl MVP award.

## 2. Cleveland Browns

We all know the Cleveland Browns had a terrible 2017 season. They won zero games! The Browns did not pass by their good draft choices though. The draft picks included young studs like Baker Mayfield, Nick Chubb, and Antonio Calloway (WR). With a new head coach and talented young players, there are going to be plenty of promising seasons in Cleveland pretty soon. They had a good 2018 season though, with a record of 7-8-1. The team fired their head coach Hue Jackson which was a



good choice, considering he had a full record of 3-36-1 with three seasons with the Browns. The Browns just recently hired new head coach Freddie Kitchens who will be looking to develop young star Baker Mayfield into a MVP-caliber quarterback. With defensive stars in Myles Garrett (DE) and Jabrill Peppers (S), and offensive stars in Jarvis Landry (WR) and Nick Chubb (RB), this team has plenty of promising years ahead!

## 3. Indianapolis Colts

The Indianapolis Colts had a good 2018 season. Finishing with a record of 10-6 and grabbing a playoff spot. Andrew Luck had a great season finishing with 39 touchdowns (2nd most in NFL) and 15 interceptions. No doubt he will win the NFL comeback player of the year after recovering from a devastating shoulder injury. The Colts made some staff changes by hiring new head coach Frank Reich, who had a good first season with the Colts. The Colts have some great young players like Marlon Mack (RB), and Darius Leonard (LB). Not only do the Colts have good players, they have good coaches who center the offense around Luck and put their focus on protecting him. The offensive line was one of the best in 2018, and they did a great job protecting Luck and giving him plenty of time to throw the ball. If the O-line keeps Luck safe for years to come, the Colts might win a Super Bowl.

## 4. Houston Texans

The Texans came back from a 4-12 season and won their division this year, finishing with a record of 11-5. Quarterback Deshaun Watson came back to play for the Texans after tearing his ACL and missing most of the season. Watson

and Hopkins were a dominant WR-QB duo in 2018. The Houston Texans also had a good running back in Lamar Miller this season; he had a 99 yard touchdown play this season. This team stepped up in 2018, but they still have some issues. The offensive line was one of the worst in the NFL, letting Watson get sacked over 60 times this season! The Texans have some off season issues to fix, but with these minor upgrades, the Texans will be a dominant force in 2019.

## Student Survey

### Best QB of All Time

By William Perri & Jose DeLemos

Winner: Dan Marino with 37% of the votes. Beating Tom Brady by 14%.

### ANSWER CHOICES/RESPONSES

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Tom Brady      | 23.00% |
| Peyton Manning | 12.00% |
| Steve Young    | 1.00%  |
| Joe Montana    | 7.00%  |
| Dan Marino     | 37.00% |
| Brett Favre    | 1.00%  |
| Aaron Rodgers  | 2.00%  |
| Drew Brees     | 6.00%  |
| John Elway     | 3.00%  |
| Other          | 8.00%  |
| TOTAL          | 100%   |

# Rams Advance to Super Bowl Thanks to Help From Refs

By Browning Trainer

With 1:48 to go in the 4th quarter of the NFC Championship game, the New Orleans Saints had the ball on the Los Angeles Rams' 13 yard line. It was 3rd and 10. The Saints' quarterback, Drew Brees, dropped back and threw a pass intended for wide receiver Tommylee Lewis. It fell incomplete, but it wasn't the fault of either Lewis or Brees. The Rams defender covering Lewis, defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman, interfered with the pass by knocking Lewis over before he had a chance to make a play on the ball, forcing a Saints field goal attempt (which they made). Human beings with multiple brain cells might think "Isn't that illegal?" And those humans with multiple brain cells would be correct. In the NFL Rulebook, Rule 8, Section 5, Article 2 states "Acts that are pass interference include... contact by a player who is not playing the ball that restricts the opponent's opportunity to make the catch". As you can see in the photograph above, Robey-Coleman is not playing the ball AND making contact with Lewis in a way that restricts his opportunity to make the catch. Unfortunately for Saints fans and all who enjoy a fair game of football everywhere, this blatant breaking of one of the more basic rules of football was not deemed pass interference by the referees officiating the game. Because of this horrible missed call, the Saints were forced to kick a field goal, which put them up by 3 points. The Rams went on to kick



a field goal as time expired to tie the game and then sink a 57 yard kick in overtime to clinch a victory and a trip to the Super Bowl.

It is very reasonable to think that the Saints still had a great chance to win the game even after the missed call. They could have forced a turnover during the Rams drive at the end of the 4th quarter and won, they could have scored a touchdown in overtime because they got the ball first and won, and they could have stopped the Rams on their drive in overtime that resulted in the game-winning field goal. It is safe to say that the Saints got out-played after that bad call. But, what if the bad call didn't happen? The Saints would have gotten 10 yards and an automatic first down, which would give them a 1st and goal at the Rams 3 yard line with 1:41 left on the clock. Barring an unlikely turnover by the Saints, Drew Brees and his offense would have had 3 chances to get 3 yards. If they somehow didn't score a touchdown, they would have run a substantial amount of time off the clock and/or forced the Rams to use their last timeout. Some people might say that this is too hypothetical, and that the Saints might not have run that much time off the clock. Its time for some logic. According to a study done in 2010 by the *Wall Street Journal*, the average NFL play is about 4 seconds long. Even though this number may have changed in today's game, it is a close enough number for our purposes, meaning that the Saints would have run at least 12 seconds off the clock, and most likely would have run the ball at least once, which would force the Rams to use their time out at the bare minimum. The more likely scenario is that the Saints run it twice or more, which gives them 35 seconds to run off the clock

because of the 40 second NFL play clock. This gives the Rams about a minute with no timeouts to drive to field goal range, which is considerably more difficult than over a minute and a half with a timeout. Long story short, the Saints would have had a much greater chance to win the game if pass interference was called against Robey-Coleman.

Many NFL players have spoken out about the controversial no-call on *Twitter* and other forms of social media, and Saints players, including star wide receiver Michael Thomas, have specifically cited Rule 17, Section 2, Article 3 of the NFL Rulebook. This rule states that if an extraordinary act of unfairness in a game occurs that affects the result of a game, the commissioner has the power to reverse the result of the game, reschedule the game, or replay the game starting from the point when the extraordinary unfair act occurred. Two Saints season ticket holders have filed a lawsuit asking that the NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to exercise the powers given to him by Rule 17, Section 2, Article 3 of the rulebook, as well as giving full refunds to over 72,000 Saints season ticket holders. The case could very well be moved to federal court. The league's Chief Financial Officer replied with a statement saying that the NFL is opposed to replaying the game because it would cost the league upwards of 100 million dollars and the incredibly difficult task of rescheduling the Super Bowl. The league has recognized that the decision of a no-call on that 3rd and 10 play was incorrect.

Now, while watching the Super Bowl, NFL fans, football fans, and sports fans around the world will be forced to wonder if the right team is playing against the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl. And it is very likely that the best football team in the NFC is not able to play for the title of best team in the NFL.

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# 2019 Super Bowl LIII Commercials

By Luke Murray

Every year companies fork out loads of money to advertise during one of the biggest games of the year. And every year people are glued to the TV screen watching. This past Super Bowl might have been lacking with points on the scoreboard, but not with ads. As with every year, you had a Bud Light, Michelob Ultra, and various other beer companies with ads. However, a few did stand out with the very creepy Turbo Tax robot-child that laughs when it is sad which is very creepy, and continuing with the smart home devices theme, Pringles had an Amazon Echo type device that was sad because it could never taste all the flavor combinations. With all the creepy ones, there were a few heartwarming ones like the Verizon ad giving thanks to First Responders for saving the lives of football players and answering “the call” to service.

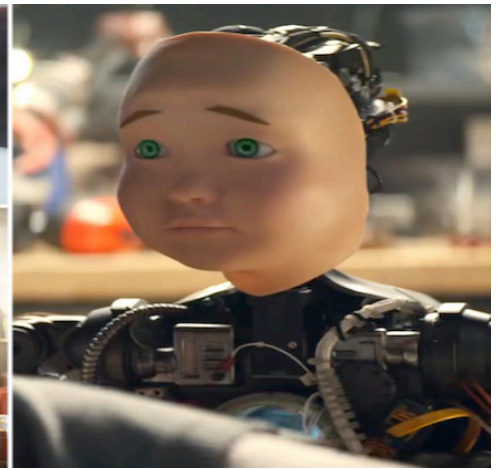
The Doritos commercial this year featured Chance the Rapper and the Backstreet Boys promoting the new flavor flaming hot nacho, and I think



we all had a heart attack during the new *Twilight Zone* Super Bowl ad when it said CBS was off the air waves - while it turned out to be fake, please do not scare us like that! The NFL ran an ad this year illustrating what could happen at the 100 year Gala probably one of the funniest commercials this year featuring



football greats like Peyton Manning, OBJ, and many other old men that were once good as they all tackle each other over a fight that started over the falling over of a cake. After that, I did not think it could get much better, but



it did with Amazon’s “not everything makes the cut” that showed Alexa being built into random things like a dog collar, the International Space Station, and even a hot tub that sent people flying out when the bass kicked in. With another commercial focusing on smart home devices, this theme reveals how times are changing and so is technology.

Moreover, as with every Super Bowl, it did not lack in idiotic ads. The M&Ms ad was dumb with its person riding in a car saying she will eat them alive, a spot much like every other commercial made by M&Ms. One of the worst ones was probably the Burger King ad “eat like Andy.” It shows Andy Warhol eating a whopper, and I believe it was very confusing and a waste of money. While it was terrible, there certainly were people tweeting about it. Overall, the Super Bowl this year was dull but the commercials provided small glimmers of light.



## TOH Meetings are every Tuesday in M21!

# Soccer: For Love of the Game

By Samuel Kinch

In a 2006 survey conducted by FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association), called Big Count, FIFA found that 270 million people, or 4% of the world's population are "actively involved in the game of football." (Please note that the use of term "football" in this article refers to the beautiful game of soccer, not gridiron). This count includes, "registered players over the age of 18, registered youth players under the age of 18, futbol players, beach soccer players, and unregistered occasional players, as well as referees and officials." And *World Atlas* says that football has over 4,000,000,000 fans (4 billion). That puts football at the biggest sport in the world, 1.5 billion away from Cricket, the second largest. Football is on top for a reason. It draws you in and does not let go.

Football is really a simple game. You have two goals at the end of each side, and you try to score on them. There are 11 players on each team, one player from each can tend the goal and try for the attackers not to score. Not a very hard concept. That simple foundation of the sport is part of what makes it so likable. Any type of person can be on a pitch: tall, short, thin, strong, incredibly large head, first class degree in chemistry; they all have their spot. Football also works well for third world countries. To play a game of football you need a ball, whether that be a compacted grocery bag or a 200\$ ball from the Premier League itself, a piece of land at least 7 meters long and 3 meters wide, and

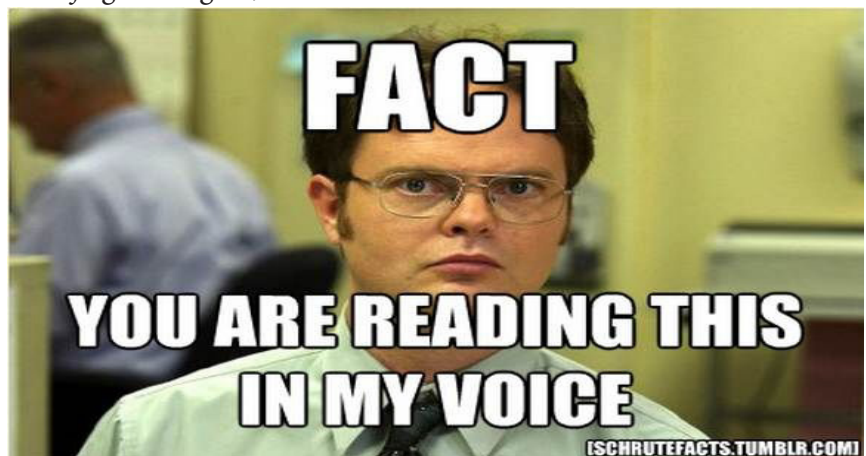


your imagination, and you can play a decent game of football. Aside from the physical part of the game, football brings with it a compassionate side. There is something about the team aspect in football, that can be found in other sports, that is special. Something about the sport brings people from different corners of the world to come to one stadium in Kiev Ukraine, to watch your team battle it out against the world's best. That love, which can be almost patriotic at times, is what holds football together.

I am a victim of the "football" bug. Playing it is an amazing feeling you get from nothing else. A group of friends and I go to the MBA field every Sunday and play for three hours straight. No agenda, no routines, not another team practice or game for months to come, just lads on a pitch, shooting from 12-3. Not only do we play, we watch and discuss soccer, and we will even have a rivalry on the newest *Fifa* game. Again, I assume this

same feeling can be found in other sports, but to me, soccer is unique. If you take the professional side of soccer, it is comforting to know that the whole world plays it, that means that every player of soccer could have a chance at getting into any club in the world, which there are a lot. In fact a lot is not doing the amount justice. To put it in perspective, if we take just men's English Association Football, there are an estimated 7000 teams, and 7000 chances to play semi-professional to professional soccer. Just English.

The game has grown from this small pastime in Sheffield, to the world's largest sport by 1.5 billion. It is the simplest, most versatile, and the easiest sport to play; it has found residence in many third world and struggling countries' hearts. It is a sport that can strike fierce love into a player or spectator's heart. It is football.







Microbe Soccer A Team

# Soccer A

By Andy Nunn

The Microbe A Soccer Team came a long way from the first practice to the HVAC Championship due to the never-ending perseverance of our coaches, Coaches Klausner and Cheevers, and many of the team's leaders including Hogan Walker. There were many leaders who stepped up on the team including goalkeeper, Samuel Kinch; and center back, Carson Sberna. Most importantly, as the season progressed, many players found the "fight and aggression" that had been missing at the beginning. Many people thought that the MBA Microbe A Soccer Team was declining after a tough loss to the Valor A team 3-0, but the team soon bounced back with a 5-0 win against Lipscomb Academy. Then, the team took two more losses against very

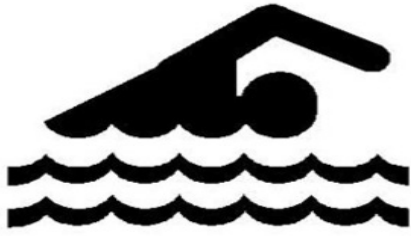


good CPA and USN teams both 0-3. The team soon bounced back, beating Harding Academy 7-0, BGA 4-0, and got revenge from last year's semi-final loss against Grace Christian 3-2. Next, the team played a great game against Poplar Grove winning 1-0 with a great goal from Reid Harrington in the last five minutes to put the team into the playoffs. We knew ahead of time that we would have to play one of our better games to beat Brentwood Academy in the quarters, and we



did just that, winning in a double-overtime penalty shootout with a great save from Ebenezer Henry-Okafor to win the game. Then, the team also knew that we would have to play a great game to beat USN who had already beat us 0-3 before. Many players stepped up to win another game that went to double-overtime penalty shootout. The last game of the season was probably the team's best game of the season due to the incredible heart shown by each player. Even though we lost in a double-overtime penalty shootout, we still showed amazing character and toughness through the entirety of the game. As a team, we would like to thank Coach Klausner, Coach Cheevers, and Coach Hardin for all that they sacrificed for this team.





## JS Swim and Dive Teams Dominate!

The Junior School Swim and Dive Team had a undefeated 2018-2019 season. Our swimmers and sole diver practiced hard from October to February and brought home both the MTHSSA Championship and the HVAC Championship titles. During the regular season, the JS Swim and Dive team defeated Ensworth, USN, and CMS, respectively.



On Saturday, January 26th, the JS Swim and Dive team won the MTHSSA Championship with an impressive score of 370 points, a whole 186 points in front of the second place team.

Seventh-graders Carter Plato, Alex Koziak, Michael Kong, Jay Schlosser, Davis Thompson, and Luke Keller all made it to the finals in their respective events, as did eighth graders Owen Reese, Oliver Pilkinton, Owen Flanagan, Isaiah Dulin, Ryan Sharifi, And Christian Lim. Our sole diver, eighth grader

Andrew Dovan, also earned significant points to add to our final score.

On Saturday, February 2nd, the JS swimmers & divers captured the HVAC title to finish their season undefeated. Athletes from the team placed first in 7 of the 12 events en route to a 100-point margin of victory over runners-up BA. Oliver Pilkinton, Isaiah Dulin, Owen Reese, 7th-grader Michael Kong, and diver Andrew Dovan each won an individual event; in all, 15 of the team's 20 athletes contributed points to the final team score.

Roll Red!





# Junior School Wrestling

By Middleton Henry

The Junior School Wrestling team has recently completed one its most successful HVAC tournaments in history, but now that the season has drawn to an end it is a good time to look back to see how the team reached this point. We started out strong with a win against Ensworth in which the team won by a landslide with only one loss. This success continued for the next couple of meets against Harding and FRA. Unfortunately, the success rate declined greatly during the succession of meets known as the MBA Dual Tournament, where the team lost three out of five of the matchups. These losses did not stop despite the best efforts of Owen Willers, Henry Ribble, Joshua Tan, Grayson Soper, and Clay Lamb who all won against either Mill Creek or Brentwood Middle, and Middleton Henry pinned Mt. Juliet in 17 seconds. Things soon turned



*18-19 Wrestling Team - HVAC Champions!*

around for MBA in the later portion of the season starting with the match with BA and lasting through the Nashville Christian and Grace Christian Academy matchups.

With all of the accumulated experience of the team, everyone was finally ready for the HVAC tournament. After many hard fought matches, including David Bellet who scored 22 points and Grayson who was awarded with the hardest fought match; the victories were added up and the winners were decided. Nate Cantrell, Browning Trainer, Reed Sullivan, and Hill Odede placed third, and David Bellet, Clay Lamb, and Quinlan

Stewart placed second. Best of all Owen Willers, Henry Ribble, Joshua Tan, Mac Russ, Ethan Klindt, and Grayson Soper all won their weight sections. The combined scores of all of the competitors brought MBA to first with a total of 203.5 points while second only had 170.

Over the course of the season, the Junior school wrestling team faced many challenges and losses, but that would not stop them from carrying on to win first.



**The staff and sponsors of Top of The Hill would like to thank the MBA Mothers and Fathers Clubs for their generous support!**



# A Scene from *The Frogs*, The JS Play



*Photo Courtesy of Rick Malkin*

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